



The Rendezvous

The official Newsletter of the Idaho Outfitters and Guides
Licensing Board

Winter - 2004

Message from the Director

The annual license renewals are underway. In response to industry concerns, the Board has made a number of changes to improve the licensing process. These changes are now starting to take place.

Online/electronic licensing was implemented January 1st and approximately 28% of the Outfitters and Designated agents are using the new system. This is far higher than anticipated for the first year.

Online/electronic licensing for guide renewals is scheduled to go on-line the first week of April. The use this system provides a more efficient method for the guides to be licensed. It enables outfitters to update current employee information and authorize and pay for applications online. Also, using this system guides will once again be able to pay for their licensing using credit cards. Most renewing guides will be able to print a 20-day temporary authorization on their home printer immediately upon renewing. IOGLB will mail the formal license. On-line licensing eliminates several steps in the licensing process and enables IOGLB to issue licenses sooner.

January 31 became the date outfitter and DA license renews are due as the result of rules that went into effect in 2003. Over half of the licensees renewing this year have responded favorably by submitting their licenses before this date. Up to a third of Idaho's outfitters were not licensed before guide renewals were submitted in previous years. This contributed to the historic delays in issuing licensing. Beginning in 2005 new fees will go into effect for outfitter and DA's not meeting the renewal submittal dates.

Seventeen (17) outfitters and nineteen (19) Designated Agents have taken advantage of the

multiple year licensing that was made available for the first time this year.

REMINDER

March 31 is the end of the license year. All Outfitter and DA renewals submitted between April 1 and June 30 must pay a \$50 penalty fee. After June 30 any un-renewed outfitter license is relinquished.

Big Game Tag Allocation

The Board is nearing completion of data gathering from outfitters so that re-calculation of zoned allocated elk tags to outfitters can occur. Zone tags are available in the Lolo, Selway, and Middle Fork of the Salmon, Dworshak, and Elk City zones. The Board is a little behind schedule, it's been 6 years since the Lolo Zone was allocated for hunters by the IDFG. The Lolo will be done next month, the Selway, Middle Fork of the Salmon are scheduled this summer and the Dworshak, and Elk City zones will be re-calculated next spring.

The IOGLB reviews outfitter controlled deer and elk hunts every 5 years to determine if there is a need for recalculation or redistribution of outfitter allocated tags. The first year that controlled hunt tags were allocated by the IDFG was 2000. A recalculation will occur if there has been a change in the total number of tags available from IDFG. Redistribution will occur when all outfitter allocated tags within a specific unit are not being used within that unit.

Hunt outfitters can download a copy of the IOGLB Allocation Manual on the IOGLB website.

Enforcement Report

At its February meeting the Board directed its staff to maintain a list of completed cases on the IOGLB website along with a statistical summary of enforcement action. This information will be available beginning later this month. IOGLB's website is: www.state.id.us/oglb/oglbhome.htm.

Each newsletter, a new topic will be reviewed to assist all of us to understand some of the major points of concern requested by outfitters. This month we will review what is the difference between a powerboat and a float boat.

Power Boating – is defined in code as all motorized watercraft used on Idaho waters open to commercial outfitting activities. The same definition continues and excludes hovercraft, jet skis or similar devices, and float boats using motors for downstream steerage.

The confusion comes with the downstream steerage. Any watercraft with a motor headed upstream or holding in the stream by use of a motor is a powerboat. It does not matter that the motor is 10 hp or less. It does not matter that it is slow or dead water and one wants to go back up to the top and come through it again. A motorized watercraft going upstream in any degree or holding in the stream by use of a motor is a motorized boat.

An Outfitter going upstream by the use of a motor with a client in the boat (fishing or not) must be licensed as a power boater. An outfitter holding in a stream with a motor running must be licensed as a power boater. An outfitter fishing while a boat motor is running whether going downstream or not must be licensed as a power boater.

Float Boating – A float boat is a watercraft propelled by, and moving with the stream flow, maneuvered by oars, paddles, sweeps, pike poles or motors for downstream steerage only. Downstream steerage does not include holding or upstream travel of a watercraft with a motor. Excluded as flat boats are personal flotation devices, inner tubes, air mattresses, or similar devices.

A float boat outfitter may use a small motor to advance downstream through slow or dead water but cannot be "trolling". A float boat cannot be fishing while the motor is running.

Note: the Coast Guard's current float boat definition requires no motor on the watercraft. We are negotiating with the Coast Guard on several issues and one of them is the definition of a float boat. The future definition of a float boat may limit the size of the motor to 10hp or less but it will always be for downstream steerage only.

Will Judge Reappointed to Board

On Friday, February 27 Will Judge received the approval of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee for reappointment to the Licensing Board. The full Senate is expected to confirm his reappointment. Mr. Judge and his wife Barb operate a lodge and outfitter business on the St. Joe River east of St. Maries.

Non/Use Reporting

The IOGLB has instructed its staff to continue working on compiling non-use data for licensees. This is the initial step toward reviewing non-use on a statewide basis. The biggest concern is that outfitters may be holding on to activities or areas in order to increase the value of their business in order to sell to another person; in essence selling the license. The Board will review use records at their April meeting and determine the appropriate action.

Board and IOGA Reach Compromise

In December, IOGLB and IOGA reached a compromise where IOGA would support legislation proposed by IOGLB to implement fee changes over a five-year period. The compromise includes IOGLB updating its strategic plan. This effort will begin in August. Two points to be considered are guiding issues and the development of a management plan for enforcement. The legislation was approved by the Senate Resources and Environment Committee with a unanimous vote on February 20 and is on the calendar for the full Senate vote later this month.

The Finer Points

Glen Allen holds license number #1 and is no longer active. Dalbert (Del) Allmon holds license # 2 and is licensed for hunting, recreation and powerboat fishing in several areas in South Central Idaho.

Training Opportunities

The Board and the federal permitting agencies will provide training in April throughout the state on how to complete new outfitter license applications, major/minor amendments and business sale requests. This training is available due to changes in the IOGLB/Federal agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) completed in December. New information manuals developed to provide better direction on how to apply for a new outfitter license or to request changes will be explained. Copies of these new information manuals are available on IOGLB's website.

Outfitters and new applicants should see the locations and dates for industry training opportunities on the last page of this newsletter

An overview of the new processes will be provided for federal permit administrators each morning, who are being asked to be in attendance during the outfitter training held in the afternoon.

We Want to Hear From You

Have an idea, suggestion, concern or complaint? The best way to communicate with us is through an e-mail. Staff tries to respond within 48 hours. You may also call at 327-7380. If you call after business hours or while all of our lines are busy, please leave a message.

Outfitter Training Schedule

Date	Location	Outfitters operating in the following areas should attend:
April 13	AmeriTel Inn. 333 Ironwood Dr. Coeur d'Alene	Idaho Panhandle NF or Panhandle BLM
April 14	Kamiah Chamber of Commerce Office	Clearwater, Bitterroot or Lolo NF, Hells Canyon NRA (Wallowa Whitman NF) or Cottonwood BLM
April 15	Nez Perce NF Supervisors Office, East/West Conference Rm. Grangeville	Nez Perce NF, Bitterroot or Lolo NF or Hells Canyon NRA (Wallowa Whitman) FS/Cottonwood BLM
April 19	Payette National Forest Supervisor's Office, Conference Rm., 800 W. Lakeside Ave. McCall	Payette NF
April 20	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, 5657 Warm Springs Ave. Boise	Boise NF or 4 Rivers/Owyhee BLM
April 21	Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarter Conference Rm., Hwy 75 Ketchum	Sawtooth NF or Sawtooth NRA or Shoshone/Burley or Jarbridge BLM
April 22	Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor's Office, Conference Rm., Hwy 93 South Salmon	Salmon-Challis, Bitterroot NF or Salmon -Challis BLM
April 23	Caribou/Targhee NF Supervisor's Office, Conference Rm. Idaho Falls	Caribou/Targhee NF or Idaho Falls/Pocatello BLM

The Permit Administrator review is scheduled from 10 to 12 at each location except the Permit Administrators attending the review at the Payette National Forest is scheduled from 12:00 to 2:00.

The Outfitter training is scheduled from 1 to 3 at each location except the Payette National Forest Supervisor's Office where the outfitter training is scheduled for 2:30 to 4:30.